

40p

TRIBUTE TO OUR
FAN OF THE YEAR

MAGAZINE

3rd May, 1986

Graeme Souness

LIVERPOOL CAN RESCUE RANGERS

EXCLUSIVE

The England star
Venables wants

World Cup
Spotlight on

WEST GERMANY

Focus on

Rummenigge

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TERRY VENABLES is the most wanted manager in the world. The Cockney charmer with the iron will elevated the level of English coaching and management to new heights when he took Barcelona to their first League title in 11 years.

But few people know the real Venables, the strength behind the

smile; the hatred of losing behind the happy-go-lucky wit; the ambition behind the amiable front.

Glenn Roeder of Newcastle United played for, and respects, Venables. Here he reveals the true face of T.V. after working with him at Queens Park Rangers and helping that team reach the 1982 F.A. Cup Final.

Mullery had no chance

My first experience of Venables the manager chilled me to my shin pads.

Rangers were in Division Two and struggling. He walked into the dressing-room, succeeding Tommy Docherty, and looked us up and down. Then he said: "You are wrong to believe you are first rate players. You play in Division Two and that makes you second-raters."

"I am your manager and that makes me a second-rate manager. The sooner we resolve this situation the happier I will be."

There was no room for a laugh, a wisecrack or even a protest. Nobody said a word! Nowhere to

Spurs shocked him

Venables is a Londoner. No matter what he is offered in the future he will return to London one day — and stay.

Arsenal and Spurs should have given him a massive 'Welcome' mat years ago. I reckon it was his failure to get the Spurs job when Keith Burkinshaw left that shoved him on the plane to Spain.

I remember him looking out on the plastic pitch from the Rangers stand and saying to a few of us: "What the hell do I have to do to get 20,000 people here? What more do they want from this team?"

We knew then he'd outgrown the stage, despite Wembley and the promotion triumph.

Barcelona gave him the chance to show the world they were wrong to pass him up, his pride was hurt and he took up a seemingly impossible challenge.

Now, he's a god out there and has agreed to stay in Spain for another year. But everyone wants him over here!

He'll always explain his desire to come home with cracks like: "I want to see the M25 finished," or "I miss Walls pork sausages." But this front is just that, a defence.

Venners is immensely talented and just as private. And like all winners he loves to dish out the stick and wisecracks, but goes poker faced if you try it on him.

Refuses to lose

I used to hate it when Venables decided to play in five-a-side games because I knew we'd be there till the moon came up ... until his team took the lead.

He hates losing, hates it to the point where he'll keep you going until he *makes* victory a reality.

This attitude gradually takes a grip of you and you discover you can't take losing either.

This stood him in good stead as a player. He was capped at every level for England, won the League Cup with Chelsea and the F.A. Cup with Spurs.

TERRY VENABLES REVEALED

He helped lift Palace from Division Three to One ... but he also knew when he'd reached the peak at Selhurst, knew the sand was running away and the team was going down. That's when he came to Rangers.

Venners likes winners. He would always take to Steve Williams of Arsenal, a mean but talented midfield player with skill and vision and passion in his makeup. He'll put his foot in and play it hard when needs be.

He will always rate Kenny Sansom, Charlie Nicholas,

Stewart Robson — and these are just the lads from Arsenal, where his name was linked for so long.

I'll back Venners to keep winning because the players he'll work with are more like him than they realise.



Glenn Roeder's
T.V.
SPECIAL!

be seen was the wisecracking 'Venners' people know from television and the papers.

He has a knack of getting the best out of players, knowing which lads respond to a blasting and who needs careful geeing up and encouragement.

Venables also takes control of nearly everything once he is manager and players come to rely on his every word. After a while he is a father-figure who can always be approached but never conned.

The trouble is, when he leaves a club, the players can't handle it. The Rangers lads were shattered when he went to Spain.

That's why his successor, Alan Mullery never had a hope. He was up against the ghost of Venners, stalking every corridor and round the training pitch at Queens Park Rangers.

Mullery obviously tried his hardest but while nobody actually obstructed him, the general mood was impossible. That's what Venners can do to a club.

Brilliant — and boring

Venables always starts with his defence, cements it then works forward into midfield, finishing with his forwards.

He took one look at the players he inherited at Rangers and decided to play what he described as: "The Liverpool style, pushing teams into their own half and bottling them up."

To me it was boring, a blatant offside game. But he became angry if this was levelled against him and always blamed opposing forwards for being lazy and getting caught.

We raced to promotion on Rangers' plastic pitch, pushing up quickly and stranding opponents. It was successful but terrible to watch. But he has the brain and knowledge to change his system to suit his players. And his coaching is bright, exciting, inventive and very up to date.

Venners knows the best players around and how they play. He is prepared and so are his men. Everything is planned yet he avoids making preparation a yawn.

Venners wants Fenwick!

Venables loves cocky, skilful, arrogant players. He took to Terry Fenwick at Crystal Palace, made him his first signing at Rangers and, I believe, will sign him again very soon.

He wanted to take Terry to Barcelona along with Steve Archibald, but couldn't because the club had their quota of foreign stars.

John Gregory, now helping

Derby fight for promotion from Division Three, is another Venners player and don't be surprised if John becomes T.V.'s coach in the near future.

Venables hates cheats and bottlers. He looks players straight in the eye and if he sees a sparkle, a reflection of himself, he'll pounce and a team takes shape. If he sees anything shifty, evasive or apologetic then he'll make up his mind you're for the exit.

He likes a laugh and a joke with the lads. But woe betide anybody stupid enough to mistake this for familiarity. Business comes first and that means winning. He does not allow players too close.

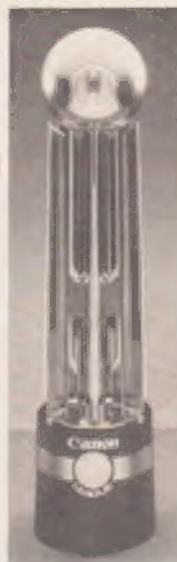


Terry Fenwick (left) is Venables' type of player. Venables and Keith Burkinshaw lead out the teams for the 1982 F.A. Cup Final (below).





RACE FOR Kendall's blueprint



The pressures of pursuing the classic 'double' of League and F.A. Cup were perfectly illustrated by Everton manager Howard Kendall at the very moment his side had made history.

No sooner had Kendall's injury-ravaged heroes toppled Sheffield Wednesday in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final than his thoughts turned to the other half of the double chase.

For while Everton and Liverpool had been succeeding in their quest for Wembley, Manchester United were ending a gloomy League sequence by helping themselves to a 3-1 win at Coventry to collect crucial Championship points.

It reminded everybody that while Ron Atkinson's expensively built side had allowed a huge lead to evaporate during the winter they were still very much in contention to take the title, although they have since slipped out of contention.

Kendall did not need reminding. "I am delighted, naturally, to be associated with the first all-Mersey F.A. Cup Final, which has taken so long to happen.

"And I am also proud to be manager of only the second club this century to reach the Final in three consecutive years.

"Beating Wednesday to reach Wembley was a good result. But Manchester United also got a

good result by winning at Coventry.

"People are talking about ourselves or Liverpool doing a double and while one of us is going to win the Cup there are others involved in the Championship race.

'Consistent'

"Having got to Wembley, our aim now must be to put together a run of consistent results between now and the end of the season."

Kendall's appetite for the Championship Everton won so stylishly last season, and which they have defended so stirringly this season, was born amidst the

celebrations of the 1984 F.A. Cup Final triumph over Watford ... the club's first major prize since the 1970 title triumph in Kendall's playing days.

"Our target must be the Championship because that is the yardstick, the standard by which a manager and team are judged," said Kendall. "Finish above Liverpool and you're Champions," declared Kendall, who was proved absolutely correct when his team succeeded their neighbours as Champions, with Liverpool runners-up!

At the start of the current campaign Kendall again showed his respect for Anfield and refused to join the doubters who felt that new player-boss Kenny Dalglish would need to cut his management teeth before Liverpool would mount a serious challenge for honours.

'Leader'

"Although Kenny was never appointed captain of Liverpool, he is such a great player and so widely respected that he was a leader by example anyway," said Kendall.

"They have had real success by winning things year after year, they have a squad of quality players and whatever team they field you know it will be a good one.

"If our lads need any further inspiration they only have to look across the road. We have it all to

But star writer IAN RUSH warns 'London

A right couple of 'wrong 'uns' from London are threatening to turn the race for the League Championship into a nail-biting scrap that could leave two of the North's three giants with absolutely nothing!

Most people expected London's title challenge to come from Arsenal and Spurs. But they have long-since blown out and must be furious to see Queens Park Rangers in the Milk Cup Final and both Chelsea and West Ham thundering along behind Liverpool and Everton.

In the eyes of the big-spending North Londoners, the capital's threat is coming from the 'wrong' clubs. But north of Watford we see it differently.

Hammers must win their games



in hand. It's better to be in our position — with the points in the bag. But as long as Phil Parkes and the superb Alvin Martin continue to shine in defence and Tony Cottey and Frank McAvennie continue to wreck the tightest opposition, I believe John Lyall's stylish team can do it.

The Easter results convinced me that Chelsea's season had peaked and faded. Thumped 4-0 by Hammers and 6-0 by Rangers they fumbled to a home draw with struggling Ipswich ... then shattered Manchester United 2-1 at Old Trafford!

It's no coincidence that Kerry Dixon's first goals of '86 were scored in front of a stunned Old Trafford crowd. If he is back on song, Chelsea could still be in the

title fight.

Here on Merseyside we face the first Everton v Liverpool F.A. Cup Final on May 10 and some people fear that Cup fever could interfere with Championship progress.

Mistake

O.K. The point is valid. Players can make the mistake of easing up in League games in order to stay fit for Wembley.

But don't be misled by the F.A. Cup Final ballyhoo ... because the Championship is always more important. No pro is going to miss the chance of winning a Championship medal because it is the most coveted of the lot.

Kenny Dalglish makes changes

THE DOUBLE

'We'll do it again!'



Alan Harper has given invaluable service to Everton this season.

do again — and I think we will."

Once again, Kendall's words have proved uncannily prophetic, with Manchester United's soaraway start to the season only offering spectacular proof that Championships are never won before Christmas.

Despite the fact that on the morning of November 9, United had opened up a massive 17 point lead over the defending Champions, Kendall knew it was still far more than a race for second place.

After losing at home to Leicester

on December 14, Everton launched an 18-game unbeaten run which lifted them back to the League summit until the Easter programme saw them dislodged by ... Liverpool.

Proved

Amazingly, Liverpool had not been at the top for almost two years, since clinching their Championship hat-trick in 1984. But once again Kendall had been proved right.

He had also been given superb

service to the Everton cause by players such as Neil Poynton, Alan Harper, Adrian Heath, Paul Wilkinson and, latterly, Bobby Mimms, as the club were rocked by a series of injuries to stars such as Derek Mountfield, Peter Reid, Kevin Sheedy and Neville Southall.

And the squad's consistency was such that after Peter Beardsley's penalty miss at Goodison allowed Everton a somewhat fortunate three points against Newcastle, Kendall reflected: "We rode our luck but I cannot remember when we last

won a game we didn't absolutely deserve to win."

Such quality could take Kendall and Everton all the way to the double.

Richest

It's hardly surprising that such outstanding management has brought Kendall to the attention of Europe's richest clubs, including Juventus and Barcelona.

But Kendall, as ever, is only thinking of the next two weeks as the season reaches its climax.

still a threat'

in our team when we win! So I dread to think what he would do if he thought anyone was easing off. At Anfield we're going for the 'double'.

I believe Everton have the same attitude. Howard Kendall knows how fans can turn. Not that long ago they wanted his head. He's since made them the most successful club in the land, but in this game you have to keep winning, have to stay on top.

The title is staying on Merseyside. It's just a matter of which side of Stanley Park it spends this summer.

1 can't resist



West Ham and Chelsea are still in with a shout, especially if Kerry Dixon is back on form!

Graeme Souness will unleash a whole new football force on the world if his plans for Glasgow Rangers succeed.

Souness wants to tap the brains of his former managers, do away with sectarian bigotry, bring quality players to Ibrox no matter what their religion and rocket Rangers into the 20th Century.

It must have dawned on Rangers by now that 113 years of refusing to sign Catholic players has astonished the world and meant the likes of Pele, Maradona, Platini, Brady and Kempes could never have worn their light blue shirt.

Souness, married to Liverpool-born heiress Danielle, has no time for such nonsense, especially as his beautiful wife is herself a Catholic!

Scotland's captain takes over as player-manager at Ibrox this summer once his contract with Italian club Sampdoria ends on April 27th.

The famous Glasgow club left Spurs, Arsenal and a crop of other leading English clubs open-mouthed when they persuaded the former Liverpool

GRAEME SOUNESS — RANGERS ROCKET

*'We're
but I*



Thumbs up for Graeme as he looks forward to a bright future at Rangers.



Joe Fagan holds the European Cup. Souness will be seeking advice from the former Liverpool manager.

'bigger than Liverpool - need their help'

skipper to succeed Jock Wallace.

And although the more fanatically anti-Catholic elements on the Ibrox terraces will rage, Souness is determined to bring the best players to the club, irrespective of their creed.

"How could I possibly have taken the job if I was not allowed to sign Catholics?" he asks.

I share my life with a Catholic and could not have flown back to Italy to tell Danielle I'd taken the job — but there's a problem with the Catholics.

● Scotland will be the only World Cup squad containing three club managers — Alex Ferguson, Kenny Dalglish and Souness.

"I have been assured I am free to pick and sign any player I believe right for Rangers, regardless of his religion. I would not have taken the job otherwise.

"I believe the fans want the best for their team before anything else. I hail from East Scotland where the question of religion doesn't come into football.

"I now need all the help I can get from my former managers," he admits.

"I've asked former Spurs boss Bill Nicholson to come up here and give me advice. He is a man I rate and respect.

"I also want my former Liverpool bosses, Bob Paisley and

● Souness is Rangers' sixth manager in 19 years, compared with Celtic who have appointed only six managers in their history.

Since November, 1967 when Scott Symon was sacked and replaced by Davie White, Rangers have operated a musical chairs philosophy, appointing Willie Waddell, Jock Wallace and John Greig before Wallace came back from Leicester.

Joe Fagan, to come up. I'm talking about the best managers in the business, past and present eras. I will listen and learn, question and probe.

"Kenny Dalglish is doing a great job at Anfield. I bet he takes time out to chat with his predecessors."

Souness leads Scotland to Mexico for the 1986 World Cup surrounded by the pedigree of men he wants to sign for Rangers.

"There are no barriers as far as I am concerned," he emphasises. "If a quality player is available at the right price then I will be in there.

"The days when Rangers and Celtic alone dominated Scottish football are over — and that is good for the game up here.

"They last won the title in 1978. But this club belongs at the top. People in England don't realise just how big a club this is, the massive following around the world, the superb new-look stadium, the tradition, the honours.

"Rangers rank alongside Real Madrid and Juventus. I'd say we're a bigger club than Liverpool!

"I've taken on a big job here and I want to be a success."

They said it...



● KENNY DALGLISH (Liverpool player-manager and ex-Anfield colleague):

"I know the determination of Graeme to succeed in everything he does. I wish him all the very best in his new job."

● BOB PAISLEY (Liverpool director):

"Graeme has all the credentials to be successful. He is a real leader and an imposing man."



● ALEX FERGUSON (Aberdeen and Scotland manager):

"I think that Graeme going to Rangers can only be to the benefit of Scotland. Now that he has got his future settled, he will be able to concentrate all his energies on helping our World Cup campaign."

● TOMMY DOCHERTY (ex-Scotland international manager):

"Graeme is now entering into the most demanding job of his career. If anyone had to ask me about the role of a player-manager with a top club I would say it was an impossible task.

To manage a club like Rangers is a difficult enough job without being asked to play as well.

"But if anyone can do it, it will be Graeme Souness."



● TREVOR FRANCIS (England international and Graeme's ex-mate at Sampdoria):

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime offer and I'm sure he will be a big success. He is a world class player and now he has the chance to prove himself one of the top managers."



Graeme will take over the reins at Ibrox after his return from world Cup duty with Scotland.

The Editor

Peter Stewart, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

Golden Gola at Wembley ED'S TEASER

THIS week I'd like to pay tribute to Gola League clubs Altrincham and Runcorn, who play each other at Wembley in the F.A. Trophy Final on May 17th.

Two of the best non-League clubs in the country, and both from Cheshire, they should provide great entertainment at Wembley. So go along. Tickets available from the Wembley Box Office, Wembley Stadium, Wembley, Middlesex. Prices — seats £5, £4, £3. Standing £2.

Boots to be won

Both Altrincham and Runcorn had good runs in the F.A. Cup this season. Altrincham beat Blackpool and Birmingham before going out in the Fourth Round.

But which club beat them? And question two ... which Canon League side knocked Runcorn out of the F.A. Cup in the Second Round?

There are super Gola Hat-trick football boots for the first six correct entries opened after the closing date Friday, April 25th. Remember to add your shoe size.

Answer to Ed's Teaser 5th April issue was Peterborough. There are £5 postal orders on the way to: Paul Carroll, Co. Tipperary; Maureen Maloney, Peckham; Iain Banks, Edinburgh; Dylan Tweddle, Birmingham; E. Dee, Berkhamsted.

Shoot view

Save Ron's neck

Bryan Robson's heartfelt plea in this issue for Ron Atkinson to be spared the axe at Manchester United should be given the

Brave Mills

Sorry, Chris!

TOTTENHAM and England star Chris Waddle was very angry by a remark made by John Bond in his article that appeared in the 15th March issue.

The Birmingham boss referred to Chris as "a so-called England player, and I don't think he knows tuppence about the game".

I'd like to point out the statement was John's opinion and not Shoot's. This magazine has always been very supportive of Chris.

Mexico here we come!

ENGLAND's stars were in good voice recently when they recorded their World Cup single "We've Got The Whole World At Our Feet" at EMI's famous Abbey Road Studios.

Let's hope the squad is as big a hit as the record, which has been released on the Columbia label.



consideration it demands.

The United captain says: "He (Atkinson) shouldn't be allowed to shoulder all the blame for what has happened ... We share a collective responsibility ..."

Robson has been sickened by the call for Atkinson's head from disenchanted supporters seeking a scapegoat for the collapse of Manchester United's Championship dreams.

They want blood because Big Ron failed to steer the club to a major trophy this season.

Are they grounds for giving a football manager the bullet?

Managers expect to pay the

It made me laugh...

BBC Radio commentator Jimmy Armfield, in tongue-tie' excitement over the battle in extra-time between F.A. Cup Semi-Finalists Everton and Sheffield Wednesday: "Peter Reid has given everything. HIS ANKLES ARE ROUND HIS SOCKS!"

The testimonial match for Middlesbrough's David Mills on April 28 could virtually end the veteran striker's career. Mills, who was transferred from 'Boro to West Bromwich Albion for a British record fee of £516,000 in January, 1979, and is in his second spell with the Teesiders, has been sidelined by a spate of injuries.

'Serious'

Recovered from Achilles tendon and groin troubles, and currently nursing a broken arm, David says: "If I were 21, the fact that I haven't kicked a ball in earnest for 12 months would not be too serious. But at 31 it's a different story."

"After being out of action for so long it could be I won't be offered another contract this summer."



But David aims to turn out in his testimonial. He says: "If necessary, I'm prepared to play with a plastic shield protecting the arm."

All of which is strictly in character with a whole-hearted player who is one of soccer's nice guys. All on Shoot wish him well.

SWOP SHOP

Michael Richards, 3 Elms Close, Riccall, York. YO4 6NX wants to hear from readers interested in swapping Panini Football '86 stickers.

ultimate price for failure in the most cut-throat professional game in the world.

Don Mackay knew the score. He quit struggling Coventry City after a 5-0 hiding from Liverpool left the Midlands club struggling for First Division survival.

Johnny Giles felt his time was up when he resigned his job in charge of West Bromwich Albion after a catastrophic run of defeats.

Mackay and Giles could both say: "I failed."

Ron Atkinson's case is very different. He has failed in his quest to bring the Championship trophy to Manchester United.

Manchester United will finish their campaign a precious few points adrift of the Champions.

That is no excuse for the Old Trafford board to wield the axe or for Big Ron to quit.

Football desperately needs stability as it fights to regain its pride after the Brussels disaster.

Arsenal have been less than their customary professional selves in forcing Don Howe on to the managerial scrapheap.

For Manchester United to fall into the same trap after the Mark Hughes transfer saga would be more than football could stand at the moment.

Nice one Nigel!

Congratulations to Nigel Gibb on winning the 1986 Football Fan of the Year Award, sponsored by Braun and Shoot!

BRAUN



Braun System 1-2-3. Systematically designed to shave closer overall.

Shoot! MAGAZINE BRAUN FAN OF THE YEAR

CONGRATULATIONS

At London's famous Cafe Royal recently SHOOT and our co-sponsors Braun honoured three representatives of those thousands of people who form the true lifeblood of our great game.

Without the loyalty and support of the vast army of genuine fans like Nigel Gibb and 1986 runners-up Melanie Brown and Stephen Lindley, there would be no professional game.

There's a fascinating story around every one of the 16 Finalists SHOOT picked out as our Fans of the Week from hundreds of worthy nominations.

So you can be sure Nigel Gibb is a remarkable person.

Nigel, nominated by his friend Derek Ferguson, has only missed two Middlesbrough games in the last 13 years.

He also helps run the club's Junior Reds, is a bingo and lottery agent and even finds time to support England and Scotland away in Europe.

But has Nigel ever been tempted to switch his allegiance to one of the more glamorous clubs?

"Never! Following Boro is my life," says 35-year-old Nigel, from Yarm, Cleveland.

Does Nigel remember his first match at Ayresome Park?

"It was against Bristol Rovers in 1959. Brian Clough was our captain and none too popular with the players.

"The day before the game they issued a statement to the Press asking for him to be sacked!

"Boro didn't drop Cloughie ... and a good job, too. He scored a hat-trick in Boro's 5-1 win!"

"Which two games did Nigel miss?

"West Brom away in September, 1977. Boro lost

2-1. My sister, who lives in Australia, was getting married and I had to drive my parents down to London Airport to catch their flight.

"Bristol City away in March, 1979 when I couldn't get my car out of the drive. We were snowed in.

And the future for Boro?

"We had a great win over Portsmouth recently but I've got to face the fact that we could go down this season.

"But new manager Bruce Rioch has already brought discipline back to the club. I'm sure pride and success will follow."

Nigel Gibb is a worthy winner of our coveted award.

Our runners-up

SECOND was Melanie Brown, who has supported Mansfield Town for the past 13 years. Melanie, 18, uses her own money to sponsor Mansfield players.

THIRD was Stephen Lindley, a Sheffield Wednesday fan who has missed just two games in the past 11 years ... and is a member of the 92 club having visited all the Canon League grounds.

Our other 13 Finalists

PETE SMITH — a postman who travels the country watching football.

GILL MILES — travels 234 miles to see Fulham.

JIM LAMBIE — has supported Charlton for 50 years.

JOHN RUSSELL — lives in Glasgow but supports Nottingham Forest.

BOB HOTCHKISS — seen Wolves since 1959-60.

GEORGE MACMILLAN — only 11 but travels almost 200 miles to watch Kilmarnock.

KEVIN DOWNES — seen the rise and rise of Oxford United.

JOHN SIDEBOTTOM — sleeps on Plymouth station before travelling home to St Austell after watching Argyle's away games.

MALCOLM JONES — season ticket holder at Everton for 16 years.

ROBERT TREAGUS — missed just one Leeds game since 1960 even though he lives in Surrey.

JIMMY GLAISTER — lives 350 miles from London but supports Arsenal.

IAN RICHARDSON — a Sunderland fan even though he lives in faraway Peterborough.

KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM — lives in London but supports Liverpool home and away.

That winning feeling as Nigel holds the trophy after becoming this season's Fan of the Year and then joins runners-up Melanie Brown, Stephen Lindley and some of the judges (below left).



Start of a new weekly series in which a fan club member puts their favourite England player on the spot.

More skill —

Welcome to England Fan Club Corner. We will be keeping you right up to date with news and views from the England squad as they prepare for the greatest soccer showpiece of them all ...

If you would like to put a question to one of the England team, just write to England Fan Club, c/o Shoot, Kings Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS.

The lucky reader this week is Edward Willis of Little Heath, Hertfordshire. Edward's favourite England star is Glenn

ENGLAND FAN CLUB CORNER

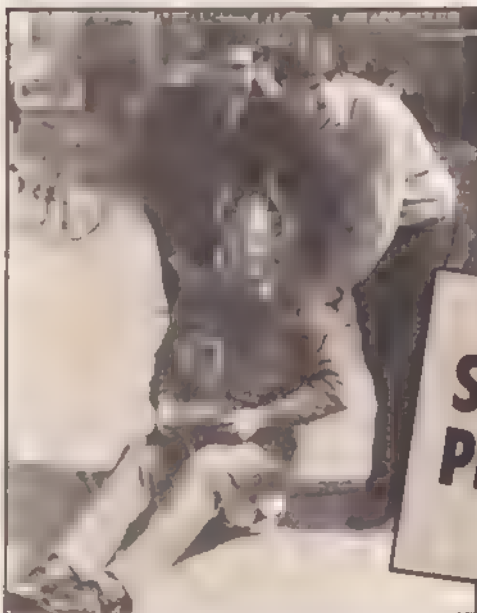


ATULATIONS

NIGEL GIBB

**the real face
of football**

On the ball with Trevor Brooking and Emlyn Hughes (below) and in the Middlesbrough colours he has worn for 27 years.



SUPER PRIZES

APART from a superb trophy, Nigel won £150 of Braun products ... £150 of adidas gear ... and £250 cash towards the cost of a season ticket.

less speed

Hodde and he asks: "Do you feel the slower pace of football in Mexico will suit your style of play?"

"That's a good question, Edward. Yes, I do think it will help because I have always based my game on a high level of skill and technique.

In England, the First Division is more about speed, aggression and fitness. It's 100mph for 90 minutes.

In Mexico, players will have more time and space, until they get in and around the penalty box.

Then it will be all about how skillfully and accurately players can place the final shot on goal. I hope I find my way on to the score sheet in Mexico.

I hope that answers your question Edward ... and thanks for joining the England World Cup Fan Club.

You can join our exciting fan club by sending a cheque or postal order for £3.99 to The England World Cup Squad Fan Club, P.O. Box 123, Eastbourne, Sussex. Fans receive a giant team poster, four action posters, a wall pennant, newsletter, badge, stickers and a postcard from the team in Mexico. Join our winning team today!



"International football is all about skill and control," insists Glenn.

TREV'S SATURDAY SPECIALS

Aston Villa v Chelsea

I HOPE Villa don't go down. Manager Graham Turner has made many changes since the start of the season and needs time to blend his new side together.

If Villa can survive I can see them emerging as a challenging force in the next year or so.

Paul Elliott has proved a good replacement for Steve Foster, while Simon Stainrod,

VILLA FORCE

Andy Blair, Steve Hunt, Andy Gray and Steve Hodge are players of real quality who would seem out of place in the Second Division.

The tension and pressure of fighting the drop has



Steve Hodge is too good to be playing in the Second Division.

affected Villa, especially on their home ground.

Chelsea had a disastrous Easter when their vulnerable defence conceded ten goals in two games against West Ham and QPR.

Kerry Dixon's two goals in their 2-1 win at Manchester United sparked him back to form but I take Villa to just edge this encounter.

My Tip: Aston Villa 2 Chelsea 1.

Sheffield Utd. v Portsmouth

WHEN United won 3-0 at Fratton Park earlier in the season they looked dead certs for promotion.

But the situation has changed dramatically since that game in November.

Looking at the strength and experience in the United side it's amazing they failed to maintain their challenge.

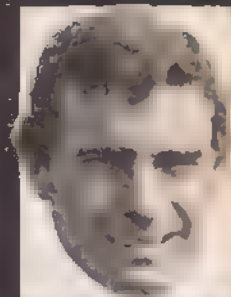
Phil Thompson, Peter Withe, John Burridge... reads like a First Division who's who.

I suppose it was inevitable that the first casualty had to be manager Ian Porterfield. I don't envy the new man taking over a club in the same city as Wednesday.

Portsmouth seem to be slipping up on their promotion push and a good result at Bramall Lane is vital to their First Division hopes.

Manager Alan Ball will be looking to his attacking wingers Vince Hills and Kevin O'Callaghan and his latest signing Mike Quinn to provide the goals Pompey desperately need.

My Tip: Sheffield United 1, Portsmouth 1.



Trevor Brooking looks at three vital games due to be played 26th April.

Celtic v Dundee

JOHNN Brown is often outstanding in the Dundee attack and they have a brilliant 'keeper in Bobby Geddes, but I can't see them taking a point at Parkhead.

Celtic are by no means the power they once were, but in Roy Aitken, Mo Johnston, Paul McStay and Brian McClellan they have enough talent to end their home games in a high note.

My Tip: Celtic 2 Dundee 0.

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GARY SHAW V SIMON STAINROD

Aston Villa strikers Gary Shaw and Simon Stainrod are preparing for a summer showdown to decide which of them starts next season as first choice.

And as Villa scramble to avoid relegation, both are equally determined to come out on top.

Villa spent £200,000 to sign Stainrod from Sheffield Wednesday last September because they realised that Shaw would need more time to recover from the serious knee injury which forced him to undergo four operations and at one time threatened the end of his career.

Stainrod became the club's top scorer in partnership with Andy Gray — but already former England Under-21 starlet Shaw is warning that his rival cannot be sure of a place in the club's starting line-up next year.

"I'm planning next season as the one when I show people that Gary Shaw is back, completely fit and as sharp as ever," he says. "I would like to think that I'll be playing regularly in the first team.

"People have maybe looked at our results and wondered why I have not been in the side more often

"But to be perfectly honest, I expected that I would only get a game here and there this season. I looked at Gordon Cowans the previous year, when he was coming back after a serious injury, and he was in and out of the side

"It's been a bit of a trial of patience. At times it has been very frustrating to get put back in the side for a game or two and then be left out again.

"But I would be more concerned if that happened next year. I don't plan to let it because I will be as fit as anybody in the



Battle of the

STRIKERS



squad when pre-season training gets underway again."

Shaw's future has been the subject of speculation. He was linked at one time with Southampton. But manager Graham Turner insists: "We have been patient with Gary for this long, we can afford to wait another month or two to get him at his very best again.

"It has been unfortunate because our position in the table has meant that we have not been able to carry anybody for a game or two to let them get their full match fitness as Gary would perhaps have needed."

Meanwhile, Stainrod's own form has been topsy turvy. Despite all his goals he admits that he has not been entirely happy with his performances — a problem he

blames partly on an old ankle injury which flared up during the frosty weather.

But he has no intention of coming second to Shaw in the battle to partner Gray — who he calls "the best striker I have ever played alongside."

He says: "We all feel that after the arrival of Steve Hunt and Andy Blair we have a much better balanced and experienced side. It is hard for a striker when the team is struggling, because you don't get as many opportunities as you would like

"For any striker the amount of goals you get is governed by the number of chances. If you get enough openings the goals will go in for you.

"We now have the people capable of setting them up and I'm looking forward to playing a full part in that."

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It certainly hasn't taken **JACK CHARLTON** long to make his mark as the new manager of the Republic of Ireland. Tickets for his first game in charge, a 1-0 defeat by Wales, carried a photo of the former World Cup winner!



Byrne off

QPR striker **JOHN BYRNE** is going to live in Finland

But the Republic of Ireland international won't be packing his bags just yet

John (above) is engaged to a Finnish girl, Anne. They plan to marry in June and move to Finland when his playing career is over

SCOTLAND will kick-off their European Championship campaign with a home clash against Bulgaria on September 10.

Their other fixtures are: **Eire (A), October 15; Luxembourg (A), November 12; Belgium (H), April 1, 1987; The DR, September 9; Belgium (A), October 14; Bulgaria (A), November 11; Luxembourg (H), December 2.**

Leicester defender **RUSSELL OSMAN** had a double reason to be pleased after the 2-0 win against his former Ipswich teammates at Portman Road

For last season Russell sponsored Ipswich striker **MIKE COLE** £1 for every goal he scored, and teenager Cole pocketed £25!

But Osman is resigned to losing the £10 bet he's had with **TERRY BUTCHER** as to which of them will score the most goals this season. The Leicester lad hasn't scored at all.

What's new? IRWIN

DALGLISH WARNED



KENNY DALGLISH has been warned not to climb on Scotland's World Cup bandwagon with his testimonial match at Hampden Park on May 4

Says Scottish F.A. Secretary **ERNIE WALKER** "It has been advertised that the Scottish national team will be playing, but this is not the case

"The two teams will be picked by **ALEX FERGUSON** and **TOMMY DOCHERTY**, but neither will be a Scotland team

"We hope Kenny's testimonial goes well, but we want the game portrayed in the proper light."

Reds and Dons join Ekstrom hunt

Aberdeen and Liverpool are ready to battle it out with Inter Milan, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich for the signature of IFK Gothenburg striker **JOHNNY EKSTROM**

The 21-year-old Swedish international scored the goal which knocked Aberdeen out of this season's European Cup and now Dons boss **ALEX FERGUSON** wants to bring him to Pittodrie.

"We have money available to make a big signing and it would be a great boost for the club if we could get Ekstrom," Ferguson admits.

"He is the big, burly sort of striker we need to do the job up front while young players like **STEVE GRAY** and **JOE MILLER** develop.

"I'll be keeping tabs on his progress and may make a move in the next couple of weeks."



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AT LARGE

West Ham 'keeper PHIL PARKES may have been shocked by JOHNNY METGOD's incredible 30-yard free kick for Nottingham Forest the other week ... but not half as surprised as the Dutchman himself

Says Johnny: "I had to watch a video recording of the goal to comprehend the pace and power of my shot."

"I have never struck a ball so hard in my life. I'll cherish that goal. The most spectacular I'll ever score."



Snodin tops Everton list

EVERTON manager HOWARD KENDALL is determined to lead his team out at Wembley for the F.A. Cup Final on May 10 with the transfer of Leeds midfield ace IAN SNODIN all wrapped up.

The 22-year-old Yorkshireman is top of Kendall's wanted list, even though Leeds boss BILLY BREMNER has already quoted Everton a £650,000 fee.

That's more than three times the price paid by the Elland Road club for Snodin from Doncaster a year ago.

But Kendall has already offered ALAN HARPER and £200,000 striker PAUL WILKINSON in part exchange and may also agree to a cash adjustment to get his men.

Harper is one of three important squad members set to leave Ever-

ton under the freedom of contract rule in the summer.

ADRIAN HEATH or GARY LINEKER are almost certain to leave. Chelsea are interested in Heath.

And a move to home club Newcastle seems on the cards for KEVIN RICHARDSON.

Which is why Kendall is determined to strengthen his midfield department before turning his attention to the possibility of an offer to manage Italian giants Juventus.

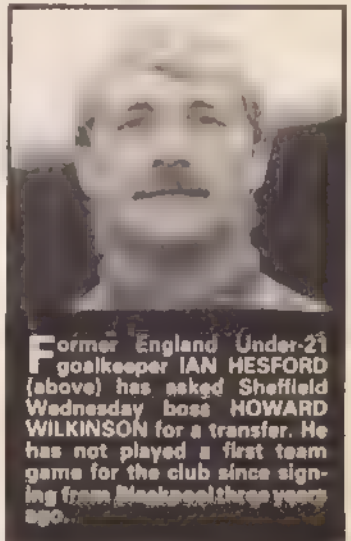
ALBION'S MOTORWAY MADNESS

It could only happen to rock-bottom West Bromwich Albion

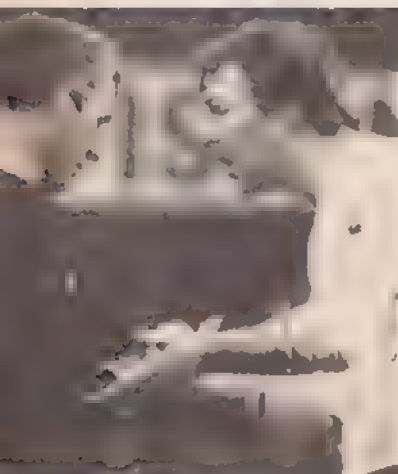
Pre-match plans for the recent game at Luton were thrown into total confusion when the team bus failed to turn up.

The players had to make their own way to Kenilworth Road in a convoy of five cars.

Assistant-manager NOBBY STILES followed, driving a mini-bus loaded with the kit!



Former England Under-21 goalkeeper IAN HESFORD (above) has asked Sheffield Wednesday boss HOWARD WILKINSON for a transfer. He has not played a first team game for the club since signing from Middlesbrough three years ago.



Graham's suspension saga

Spurs hard man GRAHAM ROBERTS has missed half a season through suspension in the last five years!

Roberts was banned for two games and fined £100 earlier this month for totalling 41 disciplinary points this season and that means the former England star has been suspended for 23 matches since 1980-81.

Roberts has now served 13 suspensions and has twice topped 41 points in a season.

LIFE might be an uphill struggle for IAN HANDYSIDES since joining Birmingham from Walsall last month. Yet if it wasn't for a blinding headache, he could be in the Fourth Division with Burnley by now!

Two years ago, Ian was due to join the Turf Moor club from Walsall but suffered a severe attack of migraine and went home without signing.

Ironically, the manager at Burnley at the time was his current Birmingham boss JOHN BOND!

Drinkell

—the 'born again' striker!

Kevin Drinkell is snapping up the goals which are sending Norwich City racing straight back to Division One.

After nine years, 300 first team appearances and a century of goals for Grimsby, the broad-shouldered six footer is a 'born again' marksman.

"I am in the best side I've played for, producing the best form of my career," he says. "I am getting into the right places at the right time. That's why the goals are coming."

Drinkell's goal in the 2-0 win at Bradford, the victory which clinched promotion, was his 23rd of the season.

Norwich boss Ken Brown is delighted with Drinkell's performances, but there is no tribute like one that comes from a beaten rival. Shrewsbury's Chic Bates says: "Kevin is looking good for the First Division. He'll get his share at the highest level."

Twice this season, Norwich have fired three goals past Bates' efficiently organised Shrewsbury

side. He says: "I thought Drinkell had perhaps lost his edge at Grimsby. Believe me, it's back now."

"Kevin is looking a very effective centre-forward again. He is sharper and his reflexes are quicker. Norwich are playing like a top ten side from the First — with Kevin right in there!"

Kevin confirms: "I needed a move. There had been a lot of inquiries over recent years, but they all came in when I was under contract to Grimsby. Last summer, there was no contract to hold me."

"Ken Brown was the first to ring me — there was no point in hanging about and I knew exactly what I was getting into: a determined club that had geared itself to go straight back to the First Division."

'Ability'

"I wanted to put myself up there, to measure my ability against the best in the game. Along with everyone else at the club, I set my sights on promotion from day one."

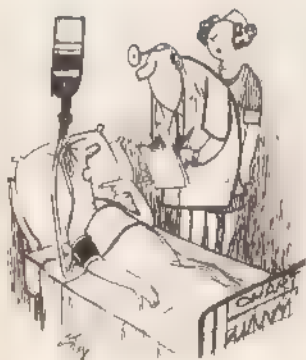
In the final days of last season, manager Brown signed David Williams and Gary Brooke and Mike Phelan. At that stage, Norwich were still a First Division club and as Milk Cup winners, into this season's UEFA Cup.

Then came the double blow of Coventry winning their last three games to edge a stunned Norwich into the Second Division, rapidly followed by the ban on English clubs in Europe.

"Unlike the rest, I knew exactly where Norwich would play this season and what they would miss out on. It made no difference. The standards of the management and the quality of the players ensured that the damage done would be put right. I'm proud to be one of those doing that job," states Kevin.



LAUGH LINE



"Are you sure the donor is a Manchester United fan?"

Kenny Sansom will be England's left-back in Mexico ... but with the World Cup only weeks away Bobby Robson still has no natural deputy for the number three shirt.

Three years ago many people felt that West Bromwich Albion's Derek Statham had the ability to take over from Sansom as first choice. Now he's heading for Division Two.

What went wrong? SHOOT sent Target Man to watch Albion's 1-0 win over Southampton to find out.



GET CRACKING DEREK



Overall performance

A Jekyll and Hyde game in which Statham showed he has the ability, but also at times why it has too often failed to show. His first-half performance allowed Saints winger George Lawrance far too much freedom and Albion could easily have been several goals behind. But after the break he tightened up and was a key figure in the eventual victory — achieved by ten men after Martin Dickinson was sent-off

Tackling

Excellent technique, his stocky frame helps him to put his full weight into every challenge. But there were times early in the game when he mistimed his efforts to beat Lawrance and sold himself badly. He tended to be early rather than late, however, and gave only three free-kicks away.

Distribution

Looked comfortable in possession and rarely gave the ball away. Most forward passes were aimed for the commanding figure of George Reilly and they found their target. Two-footed, he showed he could hit passes over 30 or 40 yards with his right foot as well as his more natural left. One particularly imaginative first-half ball switched the play superbly and ended with Darren Bradley shooting just wide of goal.

Control

Statham has the touch of a class player. He wants to bring the ball down and use it constructively rather than hit it anywhere. On the occasions, particularly in the second-half, when he joined in the attacking, he was a source of considerable danger to Saints' defence.

Attitude

Sadly, the one department where he seemed to fall down badly. He needed a more competitive edge in the first-half to take a grip on the lively Lawrance. Three times when he had been beaten he was slow to recover, seeming almost to jog back rather than sprint. Perhaps manager Ron Saunders also saw that, because there was a dramatic improvement after the half-time team talk! Overall, he seemed to lack confidence — probably a natural legacy of a season fighting relegation.

Speed

On form, he has shown a clean pair of heels to match anybody. But on this evidence he was at times alarmingly slow to the point of lethargy.

Verdict

At 27, Statham still has time on his side to re-establish himself as an international defender. He has all the right credentials in terms of his ability. But he won't achieve that without adding some aggression and determination to his play and those qualities were sadly lacking against Saints.

Holland, so cruelly knocked out of the World Cup by an away goal, provide Scotland with their final, and perhaps most searching, test en route to Mexico.

The Dutch were minutes from qualifying, leading Belgium 2-0 in the home leg of their play-off. But a fast-gasp goal put Belgium through on the away goals rule, leaving 1974 and 1978 World Cup finalists Holland shattered.

Now rebuilding for the 1988 European Championships, Holland are in the frame of mind to expose the slightest Scottish weakness in Eindhoven next Tuesday night.

One man the Scots must watch is the Ajax wonder-boy Marco Van Basten, on course to collect the European Golden Ball and, according to manager Johan Cruyff: "One of the most exciting talents to emerge in Holland for a decade."

Ammunition

If recovered from injury, he will certainly lead an attack supplied with ammunition from the left by gifted De Wit, also of Ajax.

This is Scotland's ninth international match against Holland and their sixth in the Netherlands.

The Scots boast an impressive record against one of Europe's most consistent football powers — five wins and one draw. And they have been beaten only once on Dutch soil!

If Kenny Dalglish plays he will be out for an unusual hot-trick — he's scored against Holland in their last two meetings.

Every player will be expected to pay his way when Scotland go Dutch.

Winger Dave Cooper explains: "All our games are important but



MEXICO 86
WORLD CUP
COUNTDOWN

Holland v Scotland

Scotland's
Mexico
hopefuls need a

this one is vital since it's our last before Alex Ferguson names his squad for the World Cup Finals."

The Rangers star may be Scotland's recognised winger but he points out: "I don't consider myself an automatic choice."

Cooper missed the friendly games against Israel, Rumania and England as manager Ferguson experimented with a 4-4-2 formation.

"I'm taking nothing for granted," adds the 30-year-old flanker. "I've not been playing as well as I can and I haven't even been a regular choice for my club."

"I'd love to be in the side against Holland. My confidence needs a boost and I badly want to clinch my place in the squad."

Holland will provide very stiff opposition. It's an ideal game for the boss to gauge the progress of individuals and the team as a whole.

Dutch treat

The eight meetings

Scotland score first:

1929: Amsterdam	2-0
1938: Amsterdam	3-1
1959: Amsterdam	2-1
1966: Glasgow	0-3
1968: Amsterdam	0-0
1971: Amsterdam	1-2
1978: Mendoza	3-2
1982: Glasgow	2-1

Kenny Dalglish scores in Scotland's 2-1 victory over Holland in 1982



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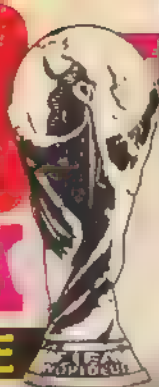


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TESTING, TESTING...

The Azteca, the official World Cup ball made by Adidas, emerged with mixed honours from a series of tests in the various regions of Mexico.

The Mexican World Cup squad who did the testing said it was: "Good and true," when tried in Puebla and Mexico City: "Very good," when belted round Guadalajara, but: "Flew like a bird and bounced like a balloon," in Leon.

● France's 2-0 win over Argentina was sweet revenge for manager Henri Michel. The last time the nations met, Argentina beat France 2-1 in the 1978 World Cup ... and Michel was playing inside-left.

Maradona's plea

Nursing a knee that requires surgery and carrying the World Cup hopes of his country on his back, Diego Maradona admits he is feeling crushed by pressure.

The Naples and Argentina striker, determined to suffer the knee trouble until after the Mexico Finals, says: "I wish the spotlight was taken away from me for a while."

"Of course I want to establish myself as a world star and wipe away the memories of 1982's failure. And if we do win the trophy I will no longer have to keep proving myself."

"But I am weary of the limelight, tired of the endless questions, comparisons and judgments. I just want to play well, help my country recapture

the World Cup and be a successful part of a successful team."

Unlike many South American stars, Maradona believes England can do well in June.

"If they slow down their game, allow their stars to dictate play and abandon their running, tackling game they will be dangerous and could go very far."

"They always produce players of character, physical strength and courage. Now they have quality touch players also. Let them lead the way and England could be Europe's best."

● Mexico's left-back Rafael Amador has broken his left arm in training and will be out for seven weeks according to international team doctor Alfonso Diaz.

Algeria flop

After flopping in the African Championship, Algeria's warning to World Cup opponents Northern Ireland, Spain and Brazil is: "Don't make the mistake of judging us on this competition."

Manager Rabah Saadane says: "We were without our injured midfield leader Lahkdar Belloumi (left) and two more key players who were not released by their French League clubs."

Algeria drew 0-0 with Morocco, 0-0 with Zambia and lost 3-2 to Cameroon, which meant elimination.

Rich reward for Iraq

Iraq's astonishing achievement in qualifying for the World Cup Finals without playing one game at home has been handsomely rewarded by the State.

War-torn Iraq was no fit place for international football and the national team played 'home' games on neutral territory.

But the players have received cars and apartments to the value of £200,000.

And just to show their mettle they played Denmark twice after qualifying, shocking Europe by reversing their opening 0-2 scoreline in a dramatic return game played in Baghdad.

WARY BEARZOT

Understandably, Italy manager Enzo Bearzot is watching South Korea with a hawk.

No Italian will forget how North Korea humiliated Italy, beating them 1-0 in the 1966 World Cup in England. And after watching South Korea twice Bearzot said: "I respect them. They are better than the Cameroon team that held us 1-1 in Spain four years ago."

"They form one bloc of players, integrating their attack, midfield and defence, and can attack on the break with great speed and precision."

W. Germans get



Lothar Matthäus (above) is a ball-winner not a play-maker but Olaf Thon (left) could solve Beckenbauer's midfield problem.



T rue to form, West Germany have found their form just in time for the final stage of a major international tournament.

Where other nations peak en route and fizzle out or find their best form in between competitions, the Germans make a habit of perfect timing.

They qualified with ease from Group Two, led by "Teamchef" Franz Beckenbauer... then fell apart.

Beckenbauer, denied the official title of "Bundestrainer" because he does not hold a coaching licence, seems to have graduated from his nation's greatest player to the ideal successor to Jupp Derwall.

Appointed in 1984, he overcame the childish petulance of Bernd Schuster, who refused to recognise him as national manager because of that missing licence, and has rebuilt the 1982 World Cup runners-up.

But with their place in Mexico guaranteed, West Germany crashed to six games without a win — the worst consecutive run in their history.

Leading German club managers

openly criticised Beckenbauer for frequently changing his side but just when the pressure started mounting Beckenbauer and his players got it right. They travelled to Italy and beat the World Champions 2-1 then came home and hammered touring Brazil 2-0.

But Beckenbauer still has two major problems. Having developed the sweeper role to near perfection as a player, he cannot find his own replacement.

Wilfried Hannes, a 29-year-old central defender from Borussia Mönchengladbach, is favourite to fill the role in Mexico. Out of international favour for more than three years, he was brought back this season to add to his handful of caps.

Hannes, expert from the penalty spot, lost an eye aged ten but overcame the handicap to earn recognition at the highest level.

His rival for the job is 30-year-old Bayer Uerdingen sweeper Matthias Herget, who holds 18 caps and whips his free-kicks round



BACK ROW (left to right): Lothar Matthäus, Harald Schumacher, Felix Magath.
FRONT ROW: Wolfgang Rolff, Andreas Brehme, Matthias Herget, Olaf Thon, Frank Mühl, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

it right — again!



Continuing our cut-out-and-keep guide to the nations and players challenging for the World Cup in Mexico. This week **SHOOT** spotlights **WEST GERMANY**.

West Germany qualified for Mexico with the following results
W Germany 2, Sweden 0, Malta 2,
W Germany 3, Portugal 1, W
Germany 2, W Germany 6, Malta
0; Czechoslovakia 1, W. Germany
5; Sweden 2, W. Germany 2; W.
Germany 0, Portugal 1; W
Germany 2, Czechoslovakia 2.

corners Brazilian style.

Beckenbauer's other worry is his lack of a team leader in midfield. Felix Magath of Hamburg flatters to deceive, Ralf Falkenmayer lacks experience and Lothar Matthaus, although a battler and superb ball-winner, lacks the skill to be a play-maker.

Watch out for 20-year-old Schalke 04 schemer Olaf Thon, who possesses tremendous skill, vision and finishing power.

Beckenbauer might just gamble that this youngster can blossom under pressure in Mexico's cauldron.

West Germany line-up in the toughest group of the lot, E, which comprises Uruguay, Scotland and Denmark. Not one easy game, not one 'weak' opponent. It poses the sternest test of that famed German staying power.

Germany's victory over Brazil has given them added confidence as they prepare for the Finals.



GROUP TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
W Germany	8	5	2	1	22	9	12
Portugal	8	5	0	3	12	10	10
Sweden	8	4	1	3	14	9	9
Czech	8	3	2	3	11	12	8
Malta	8	0	1	7	6	25	1

Mexico fixtures:

June 4: Uruguay v W Germany; June
8: Scotland v W Germany; June 13:
Denmark v W. Germany.



Springboard to glory

Beckenbauer believes the win in Italy will prove to be the springboard for a successful World Cup.

"Our confidence was low after some very disappointing results. We needed a few breaks, a run of the ball and a performance of character and determination.

The likely squad

GOALKEEPERS	CLUB	AGE
Harald Schumacher	(Cologne)	32
Uli Henes	(Hamburg)	31
Erke Immel	(B Dortmund)	25
DEFENDERS		
Klaus Augenthaler	(B Munich)	28
Thomas Berthold	(E Frankfurt)	21
Andreas Brehme	(Kaiserslautern)	25
Karl-Heinz Röttger	(VfB Stuttgart)	27
Michael Frommelt	(M Gladbach)	22
Wilfried Hannes	(M Gladbach)	29
Matthias Herget	(B Uerdingen)	30
MIDFIELD		
Hans-Peter Briegel	(Verona)	30
Thomas Allofs	(Kaiserslautern)	26
Ralf Falkenmayer	(E Frankfurt)	23
Lothar Matthaus	(B Munich)	25
Felix Magath	(Hamburg)	32
Wolfgang Rolff	(Hamburg)	26
Olaf Thon	(Schalke 04)	20
FORWARDS		
Eloas Allofs	(Cologne)	29
Pierre Littke	(Cologne)	26
K.-H. Rummenigge	(Inter Milan)	30
Dieter Hoeness	(B Munich)	33
Rudi Voller	(W Bremen)	26

"Although not a particularly memorable game of footballer, our 2-1 win on Italian soil gave everyone a lift. We turned a corner at the right time and this was reflected in our confident start against Brazil.

"I still have things to work on, areas of the team to develop and sharpen. But I have every reason to look forward to going to Mexico."



**Focus
on**

KARL-HEINZ RUMMENIGGE

INTER MILAN AND

WEST GERMANY

Full name: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge
Birthplace and date: Lippstadt, West Germany on September 25, 1955.

Height and weight: 6 feet. 12 stone 7 lbs.

Married: To Martina.

Children: Andre, seven Roman, three and Ricarda, two.

Home: Como, North Italy.

Car: Renault 5.

Nickname: Kalle, given to me when I was a little boy.

Previous clubs: Borussia Lippstadt (amateur), Bayern Munich.

Team you supported as a boy: Bayern Munich

Football hero of childhood: Franz Beckenbauer and Johan Cruyff

Favourite current player: Michel Platini of Juventus

Most memorable match: 3-3 against France in the 1982 World Cup. We went on to win on penalties

Biggest disappointment: UEFA Cup match away to Real Madrid last season. We won 2-0 in Milan but lost the second leg 3-0

Superstitions: I had a few but now I have dropped them.

International honours: 86 full caps for West Germany, scoring 44 goals. European Nations Cup in 1980.

Current West German boss Franz Beckenbauer (below) was Rummenigge's childhood hero.

Club honours: 1975-76 European Cup; 1979-80 and 1980-81 League titles, and German Cups in 1981-82 and 1983-84, all with Bayern Munich

Favourite other sport: Tennis

Favourite other sports star: Boris Becker

Favourite actor and actress: Jane Fonda and Robert Redford

Favourite TV shows: Thrillers

Favourite musicians: Mick Jagger and Rolling Stones

Hobbies: Reading

All time international XI: Yashin, Djalma Santos, Nilton Santos, Moore, Beckenbauer, Masopust, Garrincha, Platini, Muller, Pelé, Maradona.

Best country visited: Italy

What don't you like about football? The atmosphere after losing

Player of the future: Nicola Bertini of Fiorentina

Best goal scored: Overhead kick against Glasgow Rangers last season here in Milan. But the West German referee disallowed it for dangerous play!

Best goal seen scored: By Gerd Muller in a West German League match. I don't remember who against but, it was fantastic.

Most difficult opponent: Karl-Heinz Forster of W. Germany

Best ground you have played on: Maracanã in Rio de Janeiro

Ambitions for 1986: To win the World Cup with West Germany

Long term ambitions: To win the League title with Inter Milan

To Sport Week
Karl Rummenigge



Bulgaria's progress soured by...

Double

Standards

Bulgaria's surge to qualification for Mexico has been soured by their distasteful double-standards.

On discovering there was no adequate replacement for goalkeeper Borislav Mikhailov, banned for life after the infamous 1985 Cup Final brawl, the F.A. lifted the ban so he could join the national squad.

But other players banned at the same time must continue to serve their sentences, some for life.

Manager Ivan Vutsov, a strong but limited defender as a player in the 1966 World Cup, has built his team round strength and height at the back but they showed surprising flair and imagination when scoring three superb goals against understrength Denmark recently.

Strong

Bulgaria are well organised, fit, strong and able to break out with pace. But even when losing, Vutsov angers the fans by refusing to bring on a forward as substitute.

The players who will catch the eye in Mexico are relieved 'keeper Mikhailov, an excellent player; midfield pair Zhevko Gospodinov and Plamen Guetov and winger Atanas Pashev, likely to operate wide in midfield.

Bulgaria will operate with a line-up of two main strikers, four

men in midfield and a sweeper behind three man-to-man markers.

They go to Mexico seeking their first win in a World Cup Finals in their fifth attempt, and open the competition against holders Italy on May 31.

To date they have recorded four draws and eight defeats, scoring only nine goals in the process. Vutsov's tactics don't encourage the belief that things will change much this coming June.

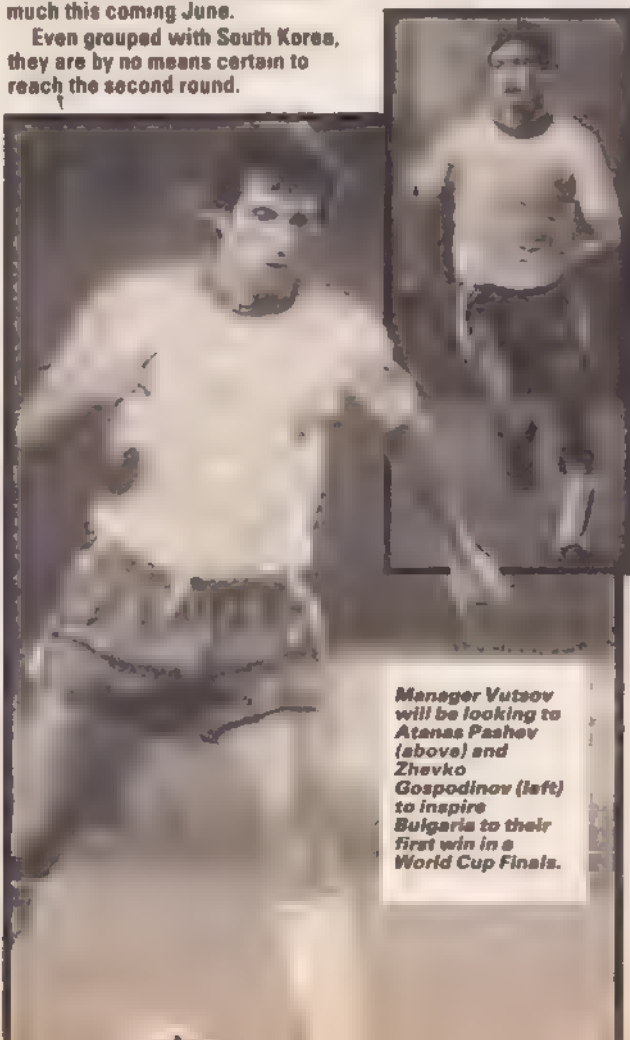
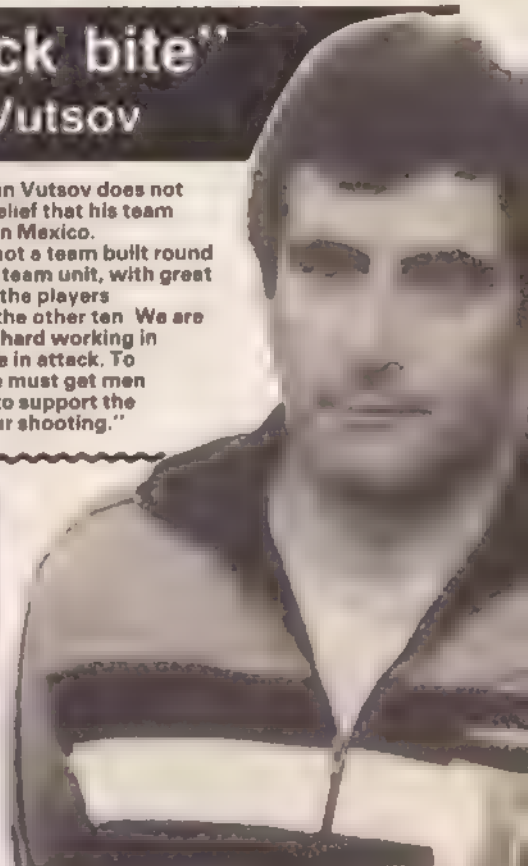
Even grouped with South Korea, they are by no means certain to reach the second round.

"We lack bite" admits Vutsov

Bulgaria manager Ivan Vutsov does not share the general belief that his team will be overshadowed in Mexico.

"I agree that we are not a team built round stars. We are more of a team built round spirit and unity among the players."

"Each man plays for the other ten. We are very strong in defence, hard working in midfield but do lack bite in attack. To compensate for this we must get men forward from midfield to support the strikers and improve our shooting."



Manager Vutsov will be looking to Atanas Pashev (above) and Zhevko Gospodinov (left) to inspire Bulgaria to their first win in a World Cup Finals.

BULGARIA qualified with the following results: Yugoslavia 0, Bulgaria 0; France 1, Bulgaria 0; Bulgaria 4, Luxembourg 0; Bulgaria 1, East Germany 0; Bulgaria 2, France 0; Bulgaria 2, Yugoslavia 1; East Germany 2, Bulgaria 1; Luxembourg 1, Bulgaria 3.

GROUP FOUR

					APts
France	1	0	0	0	4 11
Bulgaria	0	0	1	3	5 11
E. Germany	0	1	0	0	3 11
Yugoslavia	0	0	0	0	0 8
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0 21

MEXICO fixtures: Group A
May 31: Bulgaria v Italy; June 5: South Korea v Bulgaria; June 10: Argentina v Bulgaria

GOALKEEPERS	Club	Age
Borislav Mikhailov	(Vitosha)	23
Ilija Valov	(Vratza)	25
Nikolai Donev	(Loko Sofia)	29
DEFENDERS		
Krasimir Koev	(Vitosha)	22
Nikolai Arabov	(Sliven)	23
Georgi Dimitrov	(Sredets)	27
Petar Petrov	(Vitosha)	25
Emil Dimitrov	(Etar Tirnovo)	26
Ilija Diyakov	(Dobrudzha)	22
FORWARDS		
Anyo Sadkov	(Loko Plovdiv)	25
Zhevko Gospodinov	(Spartak Varna)	29
Plamen Guetov	(Spartak Plevan)	27
Hristo Kolev	(Loko Plovdiv)	22
Radoslav Zdravkov	(Sredets)	30
Kostadin Yanchev	(Sredets)	23
Stoicho Mladenov	(Sredets)	29
FORWARDS		
Kostadin Kostadinov	(Trakia Plovdiv)	27
Boicho Velichkov	(Loko Sofia)	27
Rusi Gochev	(Votasha)	28
Atanas Pashev	(Trakia Plovdiv)	23
Eduard Eranosian	(Loko Plovdiv)	25
Bozhidar Iskrenov	(Vitosha)	25



DEMON

DURIE'S TORMENT

GORDON DURIE is in danger of being labelled 'wonder'...

The young Hibs striker attracted the attention of Liverpool, Spurs and Chelsea with his exciting goalscoring exploits at the start of the term, but he's hardly put a foot right since the turn of the year.

And the player's alarming dip in form is puzzling Easter Road manager John Blackley as well as creating a mystery for Hibs fans.

By November 2, Durie had scored 12 times for Hibs, but since then has scored just one goal, against Celtic on January 18.

Scotland since Charlie Nicholas and Frank McAvennie.

"He's had a lapse in form, but I've got enough faith in him to know he'll be back scoring goals for this club."

Durie, 20, refuses to hide behind transfer rumours or injury problems for his poor form.

"This sort of thing happens to every striker," says Durie, the ex-East Fife forward who cost Blackley £50,000 a season ago.

"Thirteen has certainly been unlucky for me. The goal I got against Celtic in January should have got me going again, but I just can't get past that total."

Now manager Blackley asks "What's gone wrong? I wish I knew. Possibly the player has been affected by all the transfer rumours that are going around."

"However, he can forget them. They are a lot of bull. It's time he concentrated on scoring again."

"I want him doing what he does best, hunting for goals in our opponents' penalty area."

"Listen, do you want to know how highly I rate Gordon Durie? I think he is the most exciting natural talent to emerge in

"I've heard all the transfer stories, of course. They were very flattering, but I haven't lost my way."

There is a burden on Durie. The responsibility of keeping Hibs to the forefront is one he shares with his fellow-striker Steve Cowan.

But John Blackley believes Durie will find the form that terrified the Premier Division defences earlier this season and the goals will be flowing again. John Robertson isn't the only goalscorer in Edinburgh!

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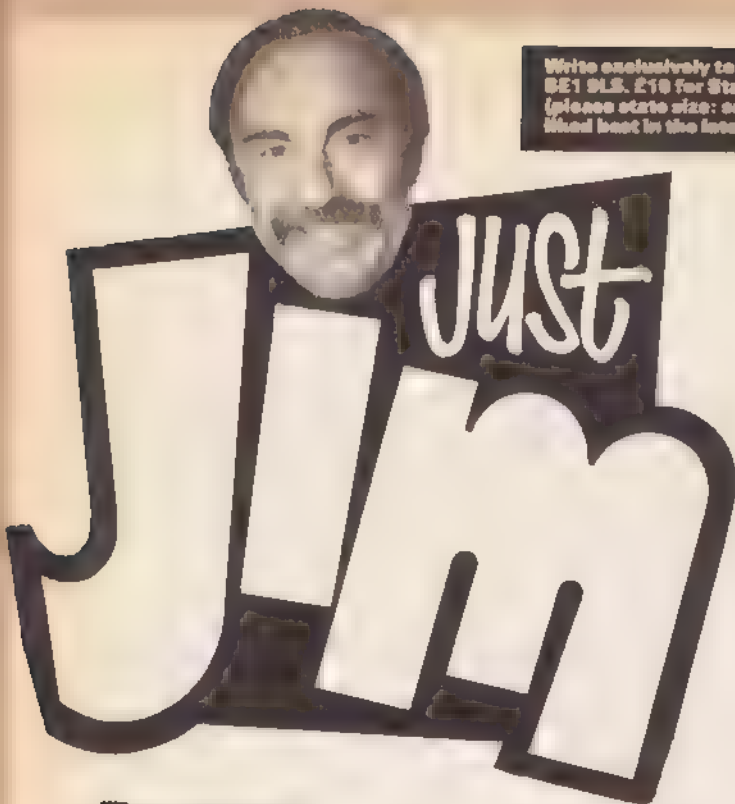
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Pompey to fall

If and when Portsmouth are promoted, they will go straight back down. They are just not good enough to survive in the First Division

MARK PAIN,
STONY STRATFORD, BUCKS.



Who can tell? Every team promoted from the Second Division seems to struggle nowadays and it won't be easy for Pompey if they make it. But unlike most newcomers to the top, Portsmouth (below) are capable of attracting a good crowd and have the financial backing to survive. Quite often the players who get a team up are not good enough to keep them there and Alan Ball will certainly have to strengthen his side. Portsmouth is a soccer city which has been in the doldrums far too long. I'd like to see them getting a lengthy run in the First Division



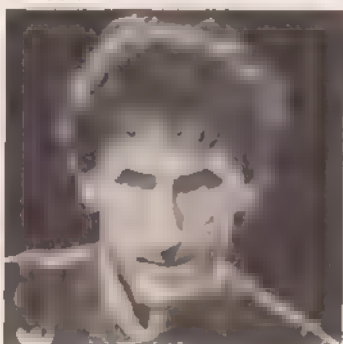
Copy Clough

It's time other managers took a leaf out of Brian Clough's book. Instead of sitting in the directors box smoking a big cigar, they should be down on the touchline urging their team on like Cloughie!

CATHERINE AXFORD,
FRAMPTON COTTERALL,
BRISTOL.



Sitting at ground level, a manager cannot see what is going on and gets too emotionally involved with the game. If I was a boss, I would definitely have a seat in the stand from where I could watch the overall pattern of play developing. But I've never been one for big cigars. I'd stick to my pipe



Keep Terry

Ipswich must not sell Terry Butcher. His influence on the team is tremendous and most of the money would probably be used paying off debts instead of signing replacement players.

DAVID LAWTON,
PRESTON, LANCs.



What a wonderful world it would be if we didn't have to repay our debts. Unfortunately, the banks don't agree and Ipswich will have to sell their prime asset if there is no other way of raising the cash. It's a credit to both club and player that they've stayed together for so long.



No chance, Sounness

This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from David Cameron of Rectory Lane, Surbiton, Surrey.

I cannot see Graeme Sounness enjoying much success as player-manager at Rangers. The job is too big for a newcomer to management and the Ibrox fans will not stand for it if he tries to introduce Catholic players to the team.



I've a feeling that the good times are about to return to Rangers and Graeme Sounness is the man to do it. He has enormous knowledge of the game and Rangers have resources as good as any club in Britain. There is no way he will even consider the religion of the players he wants to put Ibrox back on the map. Given a fair crack of the whip I'm sure he'll be a big success. And full credit to Rangers for doing the job properly. They kept the pressure off Jock Wallace,



who has not been a well man, and have signed one of the most sought after players in Europe without the slightest whiff of rumour reaching even my ears!

Axe Archie

How does Steve Archibald keep getting into the Scotland squad? He's scored four goals in 26 international games. That's not good enough for a World Cup striker

GARRY MAIR,
IRVINE, Ayrshire.



It's the same with Mark Hateley. Because he plays abroad for a big club, people automatically assume he's a great player even though they never see him in action. Hateley has scored about half a dozen goals in Italy this season but gets away with it for England. Like Scotland and Archibald, I feel that England could get by without Hateley's services this summer.

Wright blow

Mark Wright's broken leg is a terrible blow for England. I know you weren't all that sure about the Southampton defender, but he was our best bet for the World Cup in Mexico

KEITH MEADOWS,
COVENTRY.



Yes, the loss of Wright is very sad because he was a card for a place in the England squad and would probably have got a game in Mexico. There is not a lot to choose between Wright, Terry Fenwick and Alvin Martin, but it's one less defensive permutation open to Bobby Robson. The only consolation for Mark Wright is that time is on his side and he's young enough to play in the 1990 World Cup.

Wally of the Week

Gary Linaker must improve his tackling. When I saw him at Birmingham, he scored both goals in Everton's 2-0 win but didn't make one decent tackle all game

SHOOT READER,
WATERFORD, IRELAND.



I played more than 600 League games during my career and made one tackle. But people only recall my goals, and that's what they'll remember Gary for in future years. Barcelona certainly don't want him for his defensive ability. That tackle? It was on Tommy Smith at Anfield... but that's another story.

DAVIE WANTS THE

Good Life



Davie Dodds has a double reason for hoping Dundee United finish the season on a high note.

First, he wants to add a second Championship medal to his collection before he ends an 11-year association with the club.

Second, if United win through to the European Cup there's a good chance the 27-year-old striker could come up against his former Tannadice colleagues.

Dodds has committed himself to a three-year contract with Swiss club Neuchatel Xamax, firm favourites to land their own domestic crown.

"When I went over there a few weeks back they were five points clear at the top of the table," reports Dodds. "They're in a strong position and look odds-on

for the title."

An EEC tribunal will decide the fee, expected to be around £125,000, and Dodds will join his new team-mates in July in preparation for the new campaign.

He says: "I'm really looking forward to it but first of all I want to go out on a high note at Tannadice. I'd love to help United lift the title before I leave."

'Interest'

Dodds is joining the club who eliminated United from this season's UEFA Cup and reveals: "It was after our two games against them that I learned of their interest."

"I had made up my mind I'd be moving on when my contract expired this summer and going to Switzerland will give me the financial security I couldn't have expected by staying in this country."

"Neuchatel will provide me with a house, a car and regular flights home. It's an excellent deal from my point of view and everything has turned out for the best."

"They're an excellent side, similar in many ways to United. I don't envisage any problems settling in over there."

West German international Uli Stielike, previously with Real Madrid, is starring for the Swiss club and another of Dodds' future colleagues will be Don Givens, the former QPR striker now operating as sweeper.

Dodds, born in Dundee, joined up at Tannadice in 1975 and made his debut the following year, scoring twice in a 3-1 defeat of Arbroath.

At that time he was still serving an apprenticeship as a painter and decorator with his father's business and it was a further two years before he switched to football on a full-time basis.

It wasn't long, however, before he was a regular choice and after helping United to their first-ever Championship success in 1983 he was capped twice by Scotland.

Will the move to the Continent resurrect his international career? "I haven't really given it a lot of thought," he explains.

'Competition'

"Playing for Scotland was a great honour but I'm not the type to start talking about winning further caps. After all, the competition's a bit stiff."

"My only thought right now is to do my best for United until the end of the season and then get over to Switzerland in July and justify the faith they've shown in me."

"I've spent most of the current season in midfield for United and while I've enjoyed it I have to admit I'm looking forward to playing up front for my new club."

"The decision to leave Tannadice wasn't taken lightly. The club turned down an offer from Celtic for me a couple of years back and they were entitled to make that decision."

"Equally, now that my contract is up I'm entitled to move on. I've had enough experience in Europe with United to know what lies ahead and I can hardly wait to get to work."



Beat the Clock

Compiled by Steve Pearce

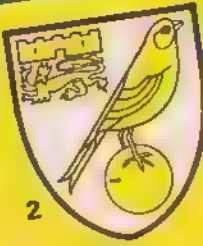
Pit your wits against our quiz master and his stopwatch. Beat the time limit on each section — and check your rating.
Genius — 5 out of 5; **Excellent** — 4 out of 5; **Good** — 3 out of 5.

FILL THE GAPS

Use the badges to help give you the name of the clubs and then fill in the gaps.



1



2



3

MANAGER

SKIPPER

Ken Brown

John O'Neill

Martin Hodge

CLUB

1.

2.

3.

SUPER MAC

WEMBLEY REDS

Study my report on the F.A. Cup Semi-Final between Liverpool and Southampton and see if you can spot the five deliberate errors.

Two goals from Ian Rush took Liverpool to their first F.A. Cup Final appearance since 1977, when they lost 2-3 to Manchester United.

The Welshman struck after a mistake by Southampton defender Keith Bond in the second half of extra-time and Rush wrapped up the tie minutes later when he beat Peter Shilton with a well directed header.

Saints never troubled Liverpool's defence, with keeper Bruce Grobelaar only having to make a couple of saves including a brave dive at the feet of Southampton striker Danny Wallace.

1. Frank McAvennie is one of the most feared strikers in the First Division. But in what position did he make his West Ham debut at Birmingham at the start of this season?

2. Neil McDonald has been playing in midfield for which Northern club this term?



3. Chelsea's Joe McLaughlin (above) joined the Stamford Bridge side from Celtic, Hearts, Hibernian or Morton?

4. Manchester City defender Mick McCarthy is an international for Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland and in which position does he play for the Maine Road side?

Spot the difference

Our artist has made ten alterations to the reproduction. Can you find them?



SHUTT STRIKES

Sheffield Wednesday striker Carl Shutt scored in three F.A. Cup matches this season. Who were the opponents made to suffer?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 32

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OLD FIRM fans don't agree on a lot of things so when 41,000 spectators rise together to cheer both Rangers and Celtic off the field it is clear they have witnessed something special.

The most recent clash of Glasgow's fierce rivals certainly lacked nothing in terms of drama.

Deft skill and total commitment, eight goals and countless near misses, five bookings, one sending off — and even a floodlight failure!

And when the dust of battle had finally subsided, the message from Glasgow came through loud and clear — Rangers and Celtic may no longer rule supreme North of the border but in terms of entertainment, the Old Firm are still tops.

I never thought I'd live to see the day a Rangers v Celtic match ended in a 4-4 draw," said Rangers' departing manager Jack Wallace. "It was a tremendous match and every one of the players de-

8 GOAL SMASHER

Cammy Fraser celebrates his two goals in the memorable 4-4 draw, but Celtic fans also had plenty to cheer, including this cracker from Tommy Burns.



served the crowd's standing ovation.

This game could not have come at a better time for the Glasgow punters. Recently they have had to listen to everyone talking about the rise of the teams from the East coast and it was even suggested that the 'Old Firm' clash now plays second fiddle to the meeting of Hibs and Hearts in Edinburgh — and maybe even to Aberdeen's games against the Dundee clubs.

But our lads proved the Rangers v Celtic match is still the best derby of them all and I'm delighted that we gave the fans a match to remember.

Rangers started brightly but found themselves 2-0 down to killer counter-punches from Mo Johnston and Brian McClair. But Celtic were brought back to earth when Willie McStay earned his marching orders for his third wild challenge on Ted McMinn and shortly afterwards Cammy Fraser reduced the deficit with a powerful header.

Early in the second half Tommy Burns restored Celtic's two-goal advantage but Rangers then blasted back with goals from Ally McCrist, Robert Fleck and another from Cammy Fraser to overhaul their rivals.

But it wasn't long before a fierce Murdoch MacLeod shot restored equality to proceedings.

Scotland manager Alex Ferguson was surely left to ponder over the omission of Ally McCrist and Mo Johnston from his provisional World Cup plans when he saw both men crack home excellent goals and make a valuable contribution to the Ibrox thriller.

By surrendering a two-goal lead Celtic fell further out of contention for the Premier League title while Rangers' failure to beat a ten-man opposition highlighted their hopes of securing a UEFA Cup spot.

Yet it didn't seem to matter.

The fans' sole topic of conversation was the value for money served up by both sets of players and everyone joined in expressing their satisfaction with the outcome.

Football was the real winner at Ibrox and Glasgow's reputation as Scotland's soccer capital was stoutly defended by the city's two favourite clubs.

Are Charlton and Wimbledon worthy of First Division status?

Are the leading London Second Division contenders good enough to go up? And does the First Division want one and perhaps two more London clubs in the top flight?

The critics say that neither Charlton nor Wimbledon deserve to be in Division One. Yet both could be there by the end of the season.

We listed the major reasons against both clubs making it — then asked managers Dave Bassett (Wimbledon) and Lennie Lawrence (Charlton) for their answers.

Case AGAINST

- Poor facilities.
- Respective teams not good enough.
- Lack of crowd support.
- Futures uncertain in present places.
- Lot of money needed for new players.
- There are already too many First Division clubs in London.
- In the case of Wimbledon, the club simply isn't 'big' enough in terms of tradition.
- The First Division needs 'big' clubs like Leeds, Sunderland, and Portsmouth.



Case FOR We will spend

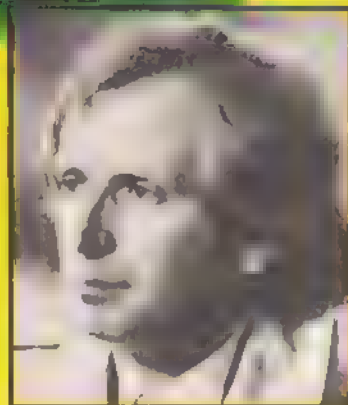
By LENNIE LAWRENCE

G We have a First Division stadium now we're at Selhurst Park. Talk of going back to The Valley is a dead duck. We have the facilities here. And we have nothing to lose by going up in terms of gates — we must gain in support.

For the big games — and there would be a lot with all those London derbies — we should have no trouble reaching five figure gates.

As for money, I accept we would need three or four new players to strengthen the side. But we are subsidised by Sunley's and they are prepared to put in the money.

We've already got a decent team and the First Division is no



longer the intimidating place it once was.

The top six are formidable, but the rest aren't. There is no reason why we couldn't set our sights on the top eight and hope to get some way towards that target.

Charlton has the pedigree to go up and do well.

The presence of several other London sides in Division One would help generate income.

As for saying Leeds and Sunderland ought to be there instead, they bought players just like us. But it hasn't worked for them. It has to be the survival of the fittest. **D**



G We know our stadium isn't good enough for Division One. That's why we are discussing either improving it and spending a lot of money or moving to a new home somewhere else in the Borough with multiple facilities.

I've heard people say the Second Division is easy to get out of this year. But if that's the case, why aren't Leeds and Sunderland up there?

People also say we will have to sell our best players. Tottenham are supposed to want Nigel Winterburn, our left-back. But sometimes smaller clubs can't pay their top players what others can

We could move

By DAVE BASSETT

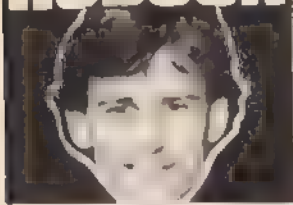
and lose them — that's a fact of life.

If we go up, we think we can keep our better players. We don't know whether we would survive. We might come straight back down again, but we'd love the experience.

I believe our facilities will be improved enormously, so that argument doesn't apply. And I'm sure our crowds would increase if we went up. The club would have to be prepared to put in some money.

Oxford had no First Division tradition and they went up. And now they've been to Wembley for a Cup Final. I don't see why we couldn't establish ourselves as a bigger club in the future. **D**

BRYAN ROBSON

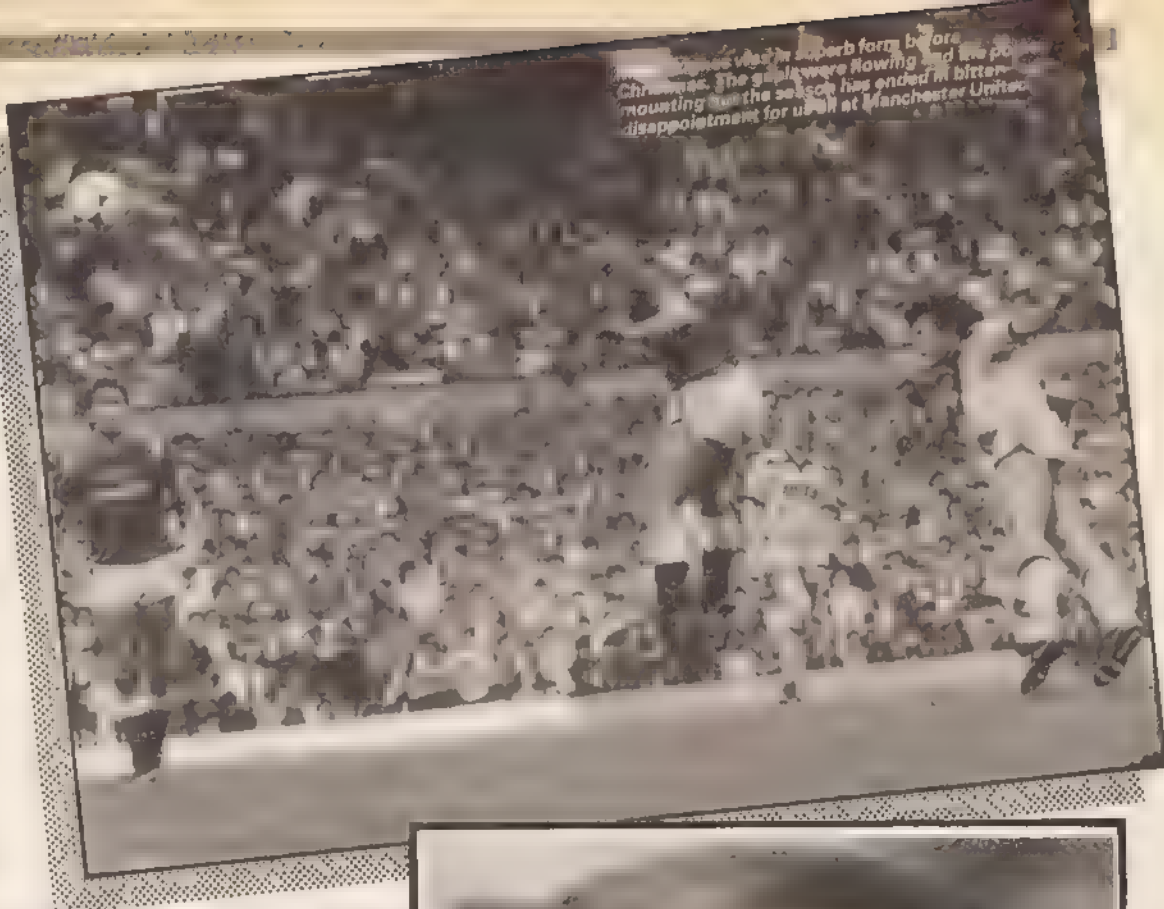


The knives are out for Ron Atkinson. If his critics have their way he will leave Manchester United at the end of the season after five years in charge at Old Trafford.

It is the easiest thing on earth to boot someone out of a football club when things have gone wrong.

You're either an outright winner, picking up trophies and praise in this game, or a big loser, with no friends. The stakes are high and the price is cruel.

The supporters calling for Big Ron's head are bitterly upset because Manchester United have failed to win the Championship this season.



Don't chop

That was the target we set ourselves — and we have blown it. It is the hardest prize to win and we weren't good enough.

We are making no excuses as a team — and nor is our manager.

But if just failing to win the title means that Ron Atkinson should quit or get the sack, then I wonder where the game is going.

Let none of us forget that if the boss leaves Manchester United, he could walk out of our door one day and straight into a job with another First Division club the next.

I'll tell you this also. Half of Europe would like to have Ron Atkinson in charge of their League clubs, and I'm including the Italian and Spanish giants.

Best

Why would they want him? Because he is one of the best managers in football.

I've never met a harder worker; a man more passionately devoted to the game; and a greater enthusiast who believes his team should entertain. He is a winner, too!

Ron Atkinson's future has nothing to do with me, but as captain of the club he runs, I feel a duty to say that he has the full support of the Manchester United team.

Ron

He shouldn't be allowed to shoulder *all* the blame for what's happened in the title race. We share a collective responsibility at Old Trafford for letting slip a Championship we appeared to have sewn-up before Christmas.

I felt the big moment of failure came on March 31 when we outplayed Everton at home but could only draw 0-0. Home defeats by Chelsea and Sheffield Wednesday were other sickeners.

In 11 years in football I have never known a more disappointing season. I understand the fans' dismay and I only hope they can find it in their hearts to forgive the team when the dust has settled.

Many people have blamed United's strikers for going off the boil. It's wrong to point the finger at Mark Hughes, Frank Stapleton and the new lads Peter Davenport and Terry Gibson.

They are no more guilty than the rest of us. Hughes hit brilliant form before Christmas when Manchester United were playing



some of the best football seen at Old Trafford for years.

We were the League's most entertaining team, fulfilling all our ambitions to give the punters something to cheer.

Then things went wrong. The goals dried-up, we lost our team pattern, and as we slipped Everton, Liverpool, West Ham and Chelsea capitalised.

All credit to them. It would be unfair not to offer my congratulations to that quartet for

making this one of the most exciting Championships for years.

I have played too much football to believe that this is the end of the road for Manchester United.

The team has a responsibility to make it up to the supporters and I shall be doing my utmost to help Manchester United regain their shattered pride.

Bryan Robson.

NEXT WEEK

**Big names
in colour!**



**Mark Hughes
hits back -
Don't blame
me for
Barcelona
goal**

MILK CUP WINNERS

best of the Wembley action.

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King of Hearts**

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AND

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**News of a fantastic
World Cup Free Gift
no fan dare miss**

**All this and much more
on Shoot and Goal**

Quiz Answers

SHUTT Derby West Ham and Everton **FILL THE GAPS** 1 Leicester 2 Gordon Milne 3 Norwich Dave Watson 3 Sheffield Wednesday Howard Wilkinson **WEMBLEY REDS** It was 2-1 to Man Utd Kevin not Keith Bood It was the first half of extra-time not the second Rush's second goal was a shot not a header Grobbelaar not Grobelaar **SUPER MAC** 1 Muffin 2 Newcastle 3 Morton 4 Republic of Ireland Centre back **SPOT THE DIFFERENCE** Umbrella missing Stripes missing on player's shorts Player's boot different Stud missing Spikes missing on umbrella Ref's badge altered Players shirt different Ref's ho ding whistle Player's sock now white Ref's umbrella handle now visible



**Pike celebrates his
headed goal in West
Ham's 2-0 F.A. Cup
win over
Manchester United.**

Perky Pikey

Geoff Pike, who was afraid of becoming a forgotten man with the West Ham fans, has come good just at the right time.

The bubbly little midfielder, in his testimonial year with the club, has bounced back after an agonising four months on the sidelines

And he highlighted his return with a brilliantly headed goal before millions of television viewers in the 2-0 F.A. Cup victory over Manchester United at Old Trafford

Says Pike: "You know what fans are like. If you're out of the side for any length of time you tend to be slightly forgotten. And with my testimonial year coming up that was bad news

"But it's been great to get back into the team, especially as we're doing so well."

And that goal? "Well, I had to cast my memory back a long way to the last time I scored with my head. It was against Orient in a League match when we were in the Second Division."

No one deserves a testimonial more than 29-year-old Pike, a local product whose hard-working performances have often been so underrated

But what about the groin trouble which kept him in the shadows as West Ham sprinted out of the traps to become candidates for honours?

'Problem'

Recalls Pike: "I first had the problem just before the Christmas before last but it seemed to resolve itself. Then it went again and no one was sure what was seemed to work

"In the end it was decided that I should play through the pain and it worked

"At the end of the season we played four games in Japan and I was fine. But a week into pre-season training it went again. I

think that during the summer, when I put my feet up, the muscles relaxed

"I had an exploratory operation and through the scar tissue they found a hole the size of a fifty pence piece in the wall of my stomach

"They inserted some mesh around it to act like scaffolding so it could grow again — and 12 weeks and two days after the operation I was fit again

"I had five reserve matches and then at the beginning of February played in our League victory over Manchester United

"Injuries like this are often caused because of the different surfaces we have to play on — and I am not just talking about QPR's and Luton's artificial pitches

"In training one day it's bone hard, the next mud and so on. That must take its toll

"The game today is so demanding physically. You have to work so hard all the time to be fit"

Pike adds to other views at Upton Park that West Ham are a far better club than those who used to jokingly say "come down with the Christmas decorations"

He's certainly one that hangs in there — as he was seen doing with that superb header which turned out the F.A. Cup lights at Old Trafford

1973 THE HERO



Porterfield (right) bags Sunderland's F.A. Cup Final winner against Leeds in 1973.

1986 THE VICTIM

Bramall Lane was too much even for Brealey to counter.

As Porterfield says: "The chairman didn't want me out. He was forced into it. I feel unlucky to be sacked. I don't want to say anything about my record because the facts are there for all to see."

And Porterfield even defends the man who sacked him. "I urge all Sheffield people to get behind Mr. Brealey and give him the support he both needs and deserves. He is an exceptional man and football could do with more like him. It is important that

been fired within six years. Yet now, in less time than it took those four to dump the club from First to Fourth, United have the big-time in their sights — and the man who did it is out of a job.

To a disbelieving soccer world, the sacking is even more of a sensation than Sunderland's F.A. Cup Final victory over Leeds in 1973 — when Porterfield scored the winning goal.

That goal made Porterfield a household name, but 13 years later he is making the headlines for totally different reasons.

How could they?

Ian Porterfield is the manager sacked for success! In less than five years Porterfield took Sheffield United from the Fourth Division to seventh place in the Second. But even that wasn't enough for the club's impatient fans — or some of United's directors.

Porterfield has been dismissed halfway through a bumper ten-year contract — with the job of restoring United to football's elite two thirds finished.

Martyred by fans more conscious of booming times across the city at Hillsborough, the 39-year-old Scot — once a Wednesday player — has threatened legal action for compensation. And if there is any justice in football and the courts, Porterfield will get the fair deal he has been denied by the supporters.

Coach Billy McEwan is in charge until the end of the season. Then the fans are bound to demand a big name. QPR's Jim Smith, a former Bramall Lane player, and Bradford's Trevor Cherry top the early list of possibles.

But United will have to pay well to fill one of the toughest jobs in the game. The fact that 15 playing contracts are up this summer underlines a difficult situation.

Angry

Wealthy chairman Reg Brealey had repeatedly defended his manager in and out of the boardroom. In January he humoured angry fans in the club car park after a shock F.A. Cup defeat by Third Division Derby. But an even bigger demonstration after Norwich's recent 5-2 win at

he is not driven away from the game by mindless morons."

As a player with Wednesday back in Third Division days, Porterfield knew the frustration of being second best in a soccer-mad city. Then, United were in the Second Division — although at the start of a decline that only he was to arrest.

In between helping Wednesday out of the Third — as a player — and taking over United in the Fourth, Porterfield had served a crash-course apprenticeship at nearby Rotherham.

The Championship of Division Three in his first full season alerted Brealey and, in agreeing to drop two divisions for the bounty of raising a giant from the depths, Porterfield stepped into the shoes of four sacked predecessors.

Ken Furphy, Jimmy Sirrel, Harry Haslam and Martin Peters had all

The tragedy is that he has become the victim of supporters who are blind to his achievements and unreasonable in their expectations of a financially stricken club — more than a million pounds in debt — that can only limp so far so fast.

Saviour

Chairman Brealey has been the champion of the faithful in almost single-handedly paying the way towards a dream. But ultimately he realised that his own popularity as the saviour and mainstay of the club depended on a decision he hardly dared contemplate.

Ian Porterfield and Sheffield United should both go to the top one day. Sadly, they won't be able to do it together.

IAN Bowyer, the last of 'Cloughie's Old Campaigners', could end his 13-year association with Nottingham Forest this summer.

Bowyer, 34, is current skipper at the City Ground but his contract expires in June.

Manager Brian Clough still holds his long-serving midfield batter in the highest esteem and may offer to extend his playing career.

But Bowyer admits: "I know that I cannot go on playing for ever, especially in the First Division.

"Frank Clark, who enjoyed a new lease of life here when he was past 30, told me to carry on playing as long as my legs kept me upright. He's right. You are only as old, tired or slow as you feel. I don't!

"Now it's up to the boss. If he thinks I have another season at this level then who am I to argue? If not, I am very keen to get into player-management."

Bowyer is the last surviving member of the team of veteran campaigners Clough assembled in the 1970s. When they won promotion in 1977, many believed there were too many has-beens, too old to stay in the First Division.

Folklore

The fact that they went on to win the League Championship, two European Cup Finals and reach three League Cup Finals, winning two, is now a matter of football folklore.

Clough's talent for building superb teams out of players apparently beyond their best welded together Bowyer, John O'Hare, John McGovern, Frank Clark, Larry Lloyd and Archie Gemmill into world beaters.

One by one they were replaced by younger legs. Good players have arrived — but trophies haven't. And as Bowyer winds down his illustrious career, it will occur to Clough that the secret of much of his success is disappearing.

"Ian Bowyer is a magnificent professional," says Clough. "He's an example to the younger players. When people talk about 20-year-olds feeling tired towards the end of a demanding season, I

The veteran Forest captain talks about his future



Clough is banking on his youngsters to bring back the glory days. Defender Des Walker (left) has already progressed to England Under-21 level.

Bowyer ready to quit

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FAVOURITE PLAYER

Block capitals please

The last survivor of Forest's Championship side



Forest line up after their Charity Shield success over Ipswich in 1978 but it's players like Clough's son, Nigel (right), who are the future of Nottingham Forest.

point to Ian and the message gets through."

Bowyer insists: "Whether I stay or go, the boss has a great young squad and will bring more success to this club."

Some critics see the sale of Peter Davenport to Manchester United as a direct contradiction of this belief.

"We had no choice," says Clough. "We had to sell him. It was all about finance."

Exciting

The likes of Nigel Clough, Des Walker, Brett Williams, Gary Fleming and Franz Carr are exciting, gifted and ambitious.

"Chris Fairclough is only just 22 and when he's fit again he will develop into a quality defender," adds Bowyer.

But Clough knows enough about blending for success to give Bowyer's future plenty of thought. And he may just want one 'old campaigner' in the ranks to bring the best out of his youngsters next season.



mexico men

Who will partner Gary Lineker in the England attack during the World Cup Finals in June?

That is one of the major problems facing Bobby Robson and time is running out.

Chelsea striker Kerry Dixon, Newcastle's Peter Beardsley and Arsenal's Tony Woodcock are all in contention. But the favourite must be Mark Hateley.

The AC Milan striker has scored six times in his 15 international games, including the winner in Northern Ireland, the equaliser in Finland and two on his World Cup debut, a 5-0 victory over the Finns at Wembley back in October, 1984.

Hateley, all power and pace, will relish the chance to continue his impressive record on the greatest stage — the World Cup Finals.

